SYWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Cllr John Amos

Ordinary Meeting of Sywell Parish Council held on
Thursday 13th November 2025 at **7:30pm** at Sywell Village Hall,

In attendance: Cllrs John Amos (Chairman), John Shenfield, Paul Groom, Philip Bletsoe-Brown
Clerk: Maureen Holliday, NNC Cllr Scott Brown

61/25 **PUBLIC SESSION:** No Public attendance

62/25 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Nanette Muttock and Fiona Ingram

63/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATION REQUESTS –** Councillors are reminded that if they have either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other interest in any of the agenda items then they should declare the interest and withdraw from the debate or meeting as appropriate. None

6425 **RESOLVED TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING** Thursday 11th September 2025. Signed by the Chairman.

65/25 **NORTH NORTHANTS COUNCILLOR –** Report:
NNC Scott Brown discussed **the draft Corporate Plan 2025-2029 which sets the strategic direction for the next four years and has received support during its September consultation.**

The Children's Trust's £9 million lab spend,
Adult Social Care's £5 million overspend, and £1.5 million on home-to-school travel.
The draft corporate plan received 90% support, emphasizing highways, housing, and employment.
Amongst others, Broad Street surgeries will pilot new "models of care" programme.
Avian flu cases were detected locally, prompting bio-security advice.
Recycling centre access issues persist, with ongoing negotiations.
A new temporary traveller site at A14 junction 11 was proposed.
Cllr Brown resigned from the Conservative Party over policy differences.
The Council's bank balance is £913,760, with Councillor Grew approved as a new signatory.

66/25 **CHAIRMAN, CLERK and COUNCILLOR REPORT** on items not on the agenda (verbal).

67/25 **RESOURCES: Resolved** to approve the following (a to f) Documents circulated

a) **Bank Balances at 5 Nov 2025**: Current Account: £ 913.54
(Traffic Calming Funding) Reserve Account: £ 76005.46

b) **Income received since previous meeting**: None

c) **Receipts & Payments**: Budget Summary, Bank Rec for year end to – 5 Nov 2025 circulated. Members reviewed the budget versus income and expenditure to date.

d) **Resolved to Approve** the addition of Cllr Paul Groom as an authorised signatory and online banking user with view and authorisation access for the Unity Trust Bank Current Account and Reserve Account. Clerk to complete and submit the necessary Account Management Change (ACM) form and provide a signed copy of these minutes to Unity Trust Bank to action these changes.

e) **Approve British Legion Donation** to £150 for 2025.

f) **Audit Check of Accounts**: Cllr Muttock reported an audit was carried out with no issues to report.

68/25 **PLANNING: Resolved** to agree responses and actions.

a) **New Applications:**
25/01002/FUL Hayes Lodge Farm, The Farm and Livery, 167 Ecton Lane, Sywell,
Erection of Rural Workers Dwelling and Stables, hardstanding for access, parking and turning of vehicles and landscaping. The application was discussed in detail. **No Observations**

b) **Awaiting Decision:** None

c) **Applications Decided:** None

d) **Other Planning Matters**:

69/25 HIGHWAYS, MOWING AND MAINTENANCE: **Resolved** to approve items (i to vi) further action or response.

i) **Village Sign in Sywell Old Village:** To discuss repairs/repainting of the sign. A quotation was provided for discussion. Council discussed and agreed that, although the sign needs refurbishment, the quotation for the work is higher than expected at £3,700 it was declined, Agreed, that up to £2,000 would be acceptable.
Action: Clerk to contact and request revision of quotation

ii) **CAN Champion Scheme:** To appoint a Climate & Nature Champion to represent the council in matters relating to the climate, nature, and the environment. It was decided to publicise the role around the community through the village newsletter.
Action: Clerk to advertise

iii) **Temporary 7.5t weight limit signs at the A43 roundabout Moulton and the entrance to Billing Lane.** This area is in the permanent 7.5t weight limit area. Noted.

iv) **Double Yellow Lines/Parking restriction in Overstone Road.**

a) **Request for yellow lines at Ecton Lane/Webbs Lane Junction:** The Parish Clerk carried out a further consultation through the Sywell & Overstone newsletter and the village Facebook site. Responses were received and an objection.
Representatives from Highways attended a meeting and carried out an on-site assessment. They advised that the proposed restriction could comprise approximately 18.3 metres along Overstone Road from Webbs Lane**,** on both sides of the carriageway. A single white advisory line was discussed, but Highways confirmed that this would be unenforceable**.**
Highways outlined the required public consultation stages and emphasised the importance of receiving positive feedback to support any widening of restrictions. The Parking Team will review the site and recommend the *maximum* length of yellow lines. This can subsequently be reduced if considered excessive following consultation.
It was noted that traffic-calming measures can reduce available parking and may have an adverse visual impact on the surrounding environment, which can be unpopular with nearby residents. Highways also confirmed that such measures are only considered in exceptional circumstances**,** particularly where there is a clear expectation of reducing collisions and casualties.
The project will require input from several agencies, including the Police, and the full consultation process could take up to 18 months**.** Highways will ultimately determine the appropriate length of any restriction.
Action: The Clerk will submit the Parish Council's request for consideration of traffic-calming measures.

b) **Further request for double yellow lines** in Overstone Road area of the school. The same process as above will need to be followed. The village faces issues with school parking and traffic congestion in Overstone Road, towards the school. The importance of balancing parking needs with traffic flow was highlighted. **No Action.**

v) **November Lengthsman Report from Peter Clayton.** ***The Council are exceedingly grateful for the time that Mr Clayton spends on behalf of the village, monitoring drains, flooding, reporting issues on FixMyStreet and NNC and monitoring the speed sign batteries.*** The report was discussed and points noted.

- As reported last month the Council has repaired most of the outstanding reports with regard to Potholes/block drains.
- I have been changing the **batteries on the Speed Indication Signs** Ecton Lane/Wellingborough Road/Overstone Road every two weeks. When fully charged, the signs respond to a vehicle approaching at 100 yards away, which reduces to approximately 60 yards just before changing the batteries. The sign on Overstone Road stops working just before the two-week changeover, this I think could be owing to the volume of traffic or the age of the sign.
Action: The council is looking into replacing speed sign batteries with solar if possible.
Clerk to make enquiries.
- The **drainage gullies in Ecton Lane & Holcot Lane** are starting to fill with fallen leaves. I monitor the gullies in Ecton Lane when I change the speed sign batteries and will shortly be monitoring the Holcot Lane gullies. I also clear the water exit point from the ditch to prevent it flooding on the road. I report all blocked drains through FixMyStreet online.

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- The **Horseshoe roundabout** is seeing an increase in traffic for various reasons. This is causing issues for vehicles entering/exiting Stonelea Road. Also, vehicles entering/leaving the Pub car park. Ecton Lane: vehicles parking at entrance to both road's do not help the situation.

- The **new bus service** from Overstone Leys to Kettering and return is not being supported. I've used it three times and both times I've been the only person on the bus. A re-think is needed, perhaps a service to Wellingborough would be used more.

vi) **Street lighting** Update on Street lighting repairs and replacements**.**
Replacement lamp post in Sywell Village: Mears Ashby Road. This lamp is in the process of manufacture and scheduled for Delivery. Estimate - by the end of November. Scheduled to be installed in the first week of January 2026. Noted.

vii) Other Highways/Security matters to be discussed.
a) National Neighbourhood Alert Survey 2025. Discussed and nominated Councillors (JA & PG).
b) Repairs and replacement of bollards on the corner of Brembridge Close, off Overstone Rd. **Resolved** to replace the broken bollards. Clerk to instruct.
c) Park Close Road repairs. The Landowner has agreed to repair the road by the end of November.

70/25 ELLIOTT PARK: Resolved to approve the following report and actions.
a) Playground Maintenance Update. 30m3 natural cushionfall has been laid. It is considered that the area would benefit from a further 10m3 of material to create a thicker surface. This may help with the problem of groundwater seepage through the area. Digging a ditch and installing a French drain to address the water runoff is being considered.
Action: Arrange site meeting with PT and P B-B to discuss more Cushionfall and possible drainage.
b) Sandpit: The surface requires a deep layer top-up. Rainwater is pooling. **Action: As above.**
c) Plan of work for the Elliott Park Lengthsman (PT). To be circulated for discussion.
The majority of the works involve a good deal of cleaning down, timber treatment and some fencing repairs. A small number of repairs to the equipment. PT has suggested signage requesting no fires or barbeques as there is evidence of damage to a table and burned grass. Cllrs accepted the report.
Action: Clerk to arrange the site meeting (a).
Instruct PT to move the waste bin by the entrance gate to the seating area nearby.

71/25 TRAINING and Advice Sessions:
a) Cllrs Amos and Groom attended "**Off to a Flying Start**" course for Councillors at Moulton.
The Chairman reported that it was a very important & informative course, particularly for new councillors and complimented the NCALC trainer.
b) Cllr Amos attended an online update of the **Chairmanship** course. Cllr Amos provided a positive report
c) Cllrs Amos, Groom and the Clerk attended the online "**How to Develop a Neighbourhood Plan**" (2) course. A summary will be circulated to Cllrs. All agreed it was an informative course, but it would be beneficial to attend the 1st course.
d) The Clerk attended **Northants AI Members Workshop** – a collaborative day exploring how artificial intelligence can enhance local governance. Interesting collaboration with other Clerks & Cllrs but little working practice was actually gained.
e) The Clerk would like to attend the **SLCC Annual 2-day Conference** at the end of January. **Approved**

72/25 URGENT MATTERS FOR REPORT ONLY (Notified to the Chairman before the meeting)
73/25 DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING – 8 Jan 2026 7:30pm, Village Hall, Sywell

Chairman Date : 8 January 2026
Future meetings : 2026: 8 Jan, 12 March, 14 May, 9 July, 10 Sept, 12 Nov

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Payments made since last meeting			Total	VAT	Net
05-Sep-25	Tomato Energy	11881014871	-21.23	-1.01	-20.22
09-Sep-25	Paul Thomas	Elliott Lengthsman Aug 2025	-182.07		-182.07
09-Sep-25	Park Landscapes	Mowing	-438.00	-73.00	-365.00
09-Sep-25	Autela Payroll	15995	-87.00	-14.50	-72.50
09-Sep-25	P Clayton	Parish work	-400.00		-400.00
09-Sep-25	PKF Littlejohn	Audit SB20250451	-252.00	-42.00	-210.00
19-Sep-25	Tomato Energy	123OO165871	-127.65	-6.08	-121.57
23-Sep-25	Gigaclear plc	G10918412	-36.00	-6.00	-30.00
24-Sep-25	Tomato Energy	124O7129472	-18.05	-0.85	-17.20
30-Sep-25	M Holliday	Elliott Park Expenses	-307.51	-49.68	-257.83
30-Sep-25	Giffords Recycling	Elliott Park Surface	-1560.00	-260.00	-1300.00
30-Sep-25	Park Landscapes	1703	-438.00	-73.00	-365.00
30-Sep-25	Service Charge		-6.00		-6.00
02-Oct-25	Gocardless	1894	-31.86	-5.31	-26.55
07-Oct-25	Tomato Energy	VK9FB6B-VK9FB6B	-20.43	-0.97	-19.46
20-Oct-25	Tomato Energy	VK9FB6B-VK9FB6B	-123.52	-5.88	-117.64
23-Oct-25	Gigaclear plc	C301522	-36.00	-6.00	-30.00
28-Oct-25	Park Landscapes	1715	-438.00	-73.00	-365.00
29-Oct-25	Tomato Energy	VK9FB6B-VK9FB6B	-17.48	-0.83	-16.65
31-Oct-25	Service Charge		-6.00		-6.00
03-Nov-25	Gocardless	1929	-31.86	-5.31	-26.55
05-Nov-25	M Holliday	OFFICE & Other EXPS	-540.10		-540.10
05-Nov-25	Parish Online	WEBSITE DOMAIN ETC	-396.00	-66.00	-330.00
			-5736.36	-689.42	-5046.94